

COATING COMPOSITION FOR UNDERCOAT AND COATING METHOD FOR
REPAIR EMPLOYING THE SAME

Technical Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to a coating composition for undercoat effecting a high content of solid matter at coating and capable of forming a coated film excellent in drying ability and substrate-shielding ability, particularly useful in the automobile-repairing field, and a coating method for repair employing the same.

Background of the Invention

Hitherto, the coating for repairing outer panels of automobiles and the like usually comprises a number of steps, for example, steps of removing old coated film at a damaged part and sanding, applying thickly a putty for plate working onto the part with a putty knife or the like, sanding the puttied surface after drying, applying synthetic plaster thereon with a knife so that the neighboring old coated film is also puttied, sanding the puttied surface after drying, and giving successive primer surfacer or filler coat and topcoat thereon. Particularly, the steps from puttying to primer surfacer or filler coat are steps for reducing strains at the damaged part and adjusting the body to the original shape, so-called body shape remedy coating process, so that a

lot of efforts and time are consumed because some kinds of putties are applied in several steps and the coated surface is sanded after each coating for attaining good finish. Also, even at the repair of striated or spotted petty scratch, 5 sanding is carried out over a wide range part centering the scratch and including the periphery and then the sanded part is puttied.

Summary of the Invention

In order to make the best use of the characteristics of both of the putty for plate working and the synthetic plaster described above, it is usually necessary to employ both putties in combination. Furthermore, since the applied surface is rough, the surface is sanded with a coarse water-proof abrasive paper in the case of the putty for plate working, so that marks from which pigment and the like are pared off and paper trails remain on the putty-applied surface. Therefore, the surfaces where the synthetic plaster and primer surfacer or filler are applied thereon should be sanded with more fine water-proof abrasive paper.

20 As described above, in order to shorten the repairing coating time, it is required that the steps from the puttying to the primer surfacer or filler coating should be simplified and the sanding time and the time until giving topcoat should be shortened.

25 For the purpose, it is considered to simplify the

puttying step and sanding process by imparting a function capable of forming a thick film to the primer surfacer or filler so as to shield sufficiently the inconvenient parts on the puttied surface such as the paper trails owing to 5 insufficient sanding, but it is difficult to balance the function with performance of coated films such as drying ability and solvent resistance.

As a result of extensive studies for solving the above problems, the present inventors have found that the 10 employment of an isocyanate-rich two-pack type coating wherein a specific acrylic polyol, pigment and resin fine particles are used effects a high content of solid matter at spray coating which allows the formation of a thick film, and enables the formation of a coated film curable within a short 15 period of time after coating and excellent in substrate-shielding ability and solvent resistance, whereby the sanding time and the time until giving topcoat can be shortened and a puttying step can be simplified in the case of a petty scratch. Based on the findings, they have accomplished the 20 present invention.

That is, the present invention relates to a coating composition for undercoat that comprises (A) an acrylic resin having a hydroxyl value of 30 to 85 and a weight average molecular weight of 1000 to 30000, (B) a pigment, (C) resin 25 fine particles, (D) a polyisocyanate compound, and (E) a

curing catalyst. The ratio of the isocyanate group in the
5 (D) component to 1 equivalent of the hydroxyl group in the
10 (A) component is 2.0 to 4.0 equivalents. The content of the
15 (B) component is from 100 to 500 parts by weight relative to
20 100 parts by weight of the resin solid matter. The (C)
25 component is mixed so as to be from 0.1 to 5% by weight as a
solid matter relative to the weight of the (B) component.

The acrylic resin (A) may be a resin obtainable by
30 polymerizing an acrylic monomer having hydroxyl group as an
35 essential monomer and other acrylic monomer and/or a vinyl
40 monomer.

This invention is also related to a coating method
45 for repair a coating that includes steps of conducting
50 surface treatment at a part to be repaired, giving undercoat,
55 and giving topcoat. At the undercoating step, the coating
60 composition above is used.

Preferred Embodiments of the Invention

In the present invention, the acrylic resin (A) may
65 be an acrylic resin having a hydroxyl value of 30 to 85,
70 preferably 40 to 70, and a weight average molecular weight of
75 1000 to 30000, preferably 3000 to 20000. When the hydroxyl
80 value is less than 30, the performance of the coated film is
85 deteriorated, and when it exceeds 85, the content of the
90 solid matter at coating decreases. Also, when the weight
95 average molecular weight is less than 1000, the performance

of the coated film formed remarkably is deteriorated, and when it exceeds 30000, the viscosity of the coating composition becomes high and the content of the solid matter at coating decreases. Thus, these cases are not preferred.

5 Moreover, the acrylic resin (A) has preferably a glass transition temperature (Tg) within the range of 40 to 90°C in view of the enhancement of drying ability.

As the monomers constituting the acrylic resin (A), an acrylic monomer having hydroxyl group is an essential monomer and other acrylic monomer and/or a vinyl monomer is used, and the resin is obtainable by subjecting these monomers to usual radical polymerization. Examples of the monomer having hydroxyl group include hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylates such as 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, hydroxypropyl methacrylate, hydroxypropyl acrylate, and 4-hydroxybutyl acrylate; lactone-modified α,β -ethylenic unsaturated monomers wherein 1 to 10 mol of a lactone such as ϵ -caprolactone or γ -butyrolactone is added to hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylates; and the like.

20 Moreover, examples of other acrylic monomer and/or vinyl monomer includes methyl (meth)acrylate, n-butyl (meth)acrylate, iso-butyl (meth)acrylate, tert-butyl (meth)acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl (meth)acrylate, cyclohexyl (meth)acrylate, lauryl (meth)acrylate, styrene, α -

methylstyrene, (meth)acrylic acid, and the like. As the usual radical polymerization, a solution polymerization may be mentioned, for example.

In the present invention, as the pigment (B), a body 5 pigment such as talc, mica, barium sulfate, kaolin, calcium carbonate, clay, silica, quartz, glass, or the like can be used and further, a color pigment such as titanium white, red iron oxide, carbon black, iron black, or the like may be contained. The content of the pigment (B) is from 100 to 500 10 parts by weight, preferably 150 to 350 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the resin solid matter. When the content is less than 100 parts by weight, the 15 workability at sanding is inferior, and when it exceeds 500 parts by weight, finishing property after topcoat is deteriorated. Thus, both cases are not preferred. For dispersing the pigment (B), it is desirable to employ a pigment dispersant, and particularly, a dispersant containing a tertiary amino group is suitably employed in view of a lowered viscosity of the dispersed paste.

20 In the present invention, the resin fine particles (C) include resin particles such as hitherto known polymer beads, finely pulverized polymers of the above monomers, gelatinized polymer fine particles (for example, cf. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open Nos. 126287/1976, 133233/1978, 25 133236/1978, 76447/1981, and 129065/1983 (USP. 4468493)), and

the like. In particular, gelatinized polymer fine particles obtainable by the emulsion polymerization of a monomer mixture containing a divinyl monomer in the presence of a reactive emulsifier containing allyl group (for example, cf. 5 Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 66770/1991 (USP. 5348998)) may be suitably employed owing to an excellent dispensability toward the (A) and (B) components.

Examples of the divinyl monomer for use in the production of the gelatinized polymer particles include 10 ethylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, 1,6-hexanediol diacrylate, and the like. And, examples of the other monomer include hitherto known polymerizable unsaturated monomers such as alkyl (meth)acrylates, monomers containing hydroxyl group, and styrene. These monomers are optionally selected. 15 Moreover, a water-soluble azo-amide compound or the like may be employed as a polymerization initiator at the emulsion polymerization.

The size of the above resin fine particles (C) may be optionally selected without particular limitation, but is 20 suitably in the range of usually 30 μm or less, preferably 0.05 to 10 μm . The adjustment of the particle size can be effected by a conventionally known method, and for example, it is achieved by controlling the kind and amount of the reactive emulsifier in the case of the above gelatinized

polymer fine particles.

The resin fine particles (C) is mixed so as to be from 0.1 to 5% by weight, preferably 0.5 to 2% by weight as a solid matter relative to the weight of the above (B) 5 component. When the mixing ratio of the resin fine particles (C) exceeds 5% by weight, the viscosity of the composition becomes high and workability is deteriorated. On the other hand, the precipitation-preventing effect toward the (B) component is not attained at the storage of the coating 10 composition particularly under a high temperature environment when it is less than 0.1% by weight. Thus, both cases are not preferred.

In the present invention, the polyisocyanate compound (D) is a polyisocyanate compound having two or more, 15 preferably three isocyanate groups in one molecule. Concrete examples thereof include polyisocyanate compounds such as hexamethylene diisocyanate, trimethylhexamethylene diisocyanate, isophorone diisocyanate, hydrogenated xylylene diisocyanate, xylylene diisocyanate, m-tetramethylxylylene 20 diisocyanate, tolylene diisocyanate, 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocyanate, and lysine diisocyanate; adducts of these polyisocyanate compounds with a polyhydric alcohol, a low-molecular-weight polyester resin, or water; cyclized polymers 25 of the polyisocyanate compounds described above; isocyanate·biuret compounds; and the like. These may be used

singly or as a mixture of two or more.

In the present invention, the above (A) component and the above (D) component are mixed so that the ratio of the isocyanate group in the (D) component to 1 equivalent of the hydroxyl group in the (A) component becomes 2.0 to 4.0 equivalents, preferably 2.2 to 3.5 equivalents. When the ratio of the (D) is less than 2.0 equivalents, the curing of the coated film is insufficient and is apt to dissolve in the solvent contained in a coating composition for topcoat. When the ratio exceeds 4.0 equivalents, the drying ability of the coated film is remarkably deteriorated. Thus, both cases are not preferred.

In the present invention, as the curing catalyst (E), hitherto known urethanization catalysts can be employed without particular limitation, and examples thereof include metal compounds such as bismuth nitrate, lead oleate, tin octylate, dibutyltin dilaurate, dibutyltin bis(acetylacetone), titanium tetrachloride, dibutyltin dichloride, tetrabutyl titanate, iron trichloride, and zinc octylate; tertiary amines; and the like. The content of the curing catalyst (E) is suitably from 0.1 to 10% by weight, preferably 0.2 to 5% by weight relative to the resin solid matter. When the content is less than 0.1% by weight, the curing of the coated film is insufficient and is apt to dissolve in the solvent contained in a coating composition

for topcoat. On the other hand, when it exceeds 10% by weight, the viscosity after mixing a main agent with a curing agent increases rapidly. Thus, both cases are not preferred.

The composition of the present invention may be
5 optionally mixed with additives for coating compositions such as an organic solvent, a cellulose derivative, a non-aqueous dispersing resin, and a leveling agent including a dimethylsiloxane copolymer, or the like.

The composition of the present invention thus
10 obtained is a two-pack type composition, and at the use, a main agent containing the (A), (B), (C), and (E) components is mixed with a curing agent containing the (D) component immediately before the coating. Moreover, in the composition of the present invention, it is possible to increase the
15 solid matter at coating to 55 to 70% by the above compositional ratio.

The present invention further provides a coating method for repair wherein the above composition is employed for undercoat.

20 The coated films for repair to which the method of the present invention can be applied may be coated films coated on outer panels of automobiles and household electrical goods, for example. These are mostly multilayer coated film comprising undercoat film, intermediate coat film
25 (may be sometimes omitted), and topcoat film. Moreover, the

coated film may be either solid type or metallic type. The total film thickness of these multilayer coated films is usually in the range of 50 to 300 μ as a cured coated film. These coated film may be either three-dimensionally 5 crosslinked and cured or not crosslinked.

In the method of the present invention, the damaged part of the coated film is first pared off, and the part centering the damaged part and including the periphery when required is sanded and then degreased if necessary. When the 10 damage is a line scratch, a spot scratch, or the like, the composition of the present invention can be directly applied to the degreased part. Depending on the damage, the pared part is charged with various putties and then the composition of the present invention can be applied thereto. The putty 15 can be charged according to the method known per se, for example, with knife application. The putties may be a hitherto known putty for plate working, synthetic plaster, and the like. For example, there may be mentioned nitrocottons, acrylic resins, epoxyacrylate resins, 20 unsaturated polyester resins, urethane resins, and the like. In the case that the putty is applied, it is preferred to sand the puttied surface after drying, but there arises no trouble even when the sanded surface is rough since the composition of the present invention has a good substrate- 25 shielding ability.

The composition of the present invention can be applied according to hitherto known coating method, and particularly suitable is a spray coating. The thickness of coated film is within the range of 50 to 500 μm as a dry film 5 thickness, and a thick coating is possible.

After the drying of the coated film derived from the composition of the present invention, the film is sanded when required, and then topcoat is given. For the topcoat, hitherto known coating methods can be applied, including one 10 coat finish wherein a base coating composition comprising a metallic pigment and/or color pigment is mixed or two-coat finish wherein a base coating composition and a clear coating composition are used. For the coating, an organic solvent-type or aqueous coating composition for topcoat usually used 15 for repair such as an acrylic lacquer, a urethane-curable coating, or a fluorine resin coating can be employed without particular limitation, and a urethane-curable coating is particularly preferred.

EXAMPLES

20 The following will explain the present invention in detail with reference to examples. By the way, "part(s)" and "%" mean "part(s) by weight" and "% by weight", respectively.

Production of acrylic resin

A reactor was fitted with a thermometer, a 25 thermostat, a stirrer, a reflux cooler, and a dropping pump,

and was charged with xylene (42 parts) and butyl acetate (10 parts), and then the whole was warmed to 110°C under stirring.

A mixture of monomers and a polymerization initiator comprising styrene (10 parts), methyl methacrylate (10 parts), 5 n-butyl methacrylate (5 parts), i-butyl methacrylate (60 parts), methacrylic acid (1 part), 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate (14 parts), and azobisisobutyronitrile (2.3 parts) was added dropwise by means of the dropping pump at 110°C or below at a constant rate over a period of 3 hours.

10 After the completion of the addition, the whole was kept at 110°C for 60 minutes under continuous stirring. Thereafter, a solution of azobisisobutyronitrile (0.5 part) dissolved in butyl acetate (7 parts) was added, as an additional catalyst, dropwise at a constant rate over a period of 60 minutes.

15 After the completion of the addition, the whole was kept at 110°C for 60 minutes and the reaction was completed. The resulting solution of an acrylic resin having hydroxyl group is a homogeneous transparent solution containing a non-volatile matter of 55%, Gardner viscosity being X. Moreover, 20 the acrylic resin has a weight average molecular weight of 18000, a hydroxyl value of 60, and Tg of 60°C.

Production of resin fine particles

To a 1 liter flask fitted with a stirring apparatus, a thermometer, a cooler, and a heating mantle were added

deionized water (3547.5 parts) and "Latemul S-120A"
(manufactured by Kao Corporation, a sulfosuccinic acid-type
allyl group-containing anionic reactive emulsifier, a 50%
aqueous solution) (40 parts), and the whole was warmed to
5 90°C under stirring. Then, 20% of an aqueous solution of
"VA-086" (manufactured by Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd.,
a water-soluble azo-amide polymerization initiator) (12.5
parts) dissolved in deionized water (500 parts) was added
thereto. After 15 minutes, 5% of a monomer mixture
10 comprising styrene (300 parts), methyl methacrylate (400
parts), n-butyl acrylate (200 parts), and 1,6-hexanediol
diacrylate (100 parts) was added thereto, followed by
stirring for 30 minutes. Thereafter, the dropwise addition
of the remaining monomer mixture and polymerization initiator
15 aqueous solution was started, the monomer solution being
added over a period of 3 hours and the polymerization
initiator aqueous solution being added over a period of 3.5
hours with keeping the whole at 90°C during the addition.
After the completion of the addition of the polymerization
20 initiator aqueous solution, the whole was kept at 90°C for 30
minutes and then cooled to room temperature. Then, an
aqueous gelatinized fine particle polymer water dispersion
containing a solid matter of 20% was obtained by isolation
using a filtering cloth. The particle size was 72 nm. The

product was dried over a stainless pad to obtain resin fine particles G.

Preparation of Coating Composition for Undercoat

Example 1

5 To the acrylic resin solution containing a solid matter of 55% (25 parts) produced in the above were added the above resin fine particles G (0.3 part), xylene (22 parts), a pigment dispersant containing a tertiary amino group (2.6 parts), titanium white (10 parts), talc (15 parts), barium sulfate (10 parts), calcium carbonate (15 parts), and dibutyltin dilaurate (0.1 part), successively. The whole was mixed and stirred for 30 minutes for dispersing them to obtain a main agent. To the main agent (100 parts) was mixed "Duramate TPA90EK" (manufactured by Asahi Kasei Corporation, 10 a polyisocyanate compound) (40 parts) immediately before use to obtain a coating composition for undercoat.

Examples 2 to 4 and Comparative Examples 1 to 3

Each coating composition for undercoat was obtained in a similar manner to Example 1 with the exception that the 20 formulation shown in Table 1 was used instead of that in Example 1.

The state of the main agent of each coating composition obtained in the above was evaluated after 6 months storage at 40°C. And, \ominus shows that no problem is 25 observed, \bigcirc shows that slight thickening occurs but no

precipitation nor agglomeration of the pigment is observed, and X shows that the pigment is precipitated or agglomerated to form a hard cake.

Table 1

		Example				Comparative Example		
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3
Main agent	55% Acrylic resin	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
	Resin fine particle G	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	-
	Xylene	22	22	22.3	21.1	22	22.1	25
	tert-Amine-containing pigment dispersant	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
	Titanium white	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Talc	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
	Barium sulfate	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Calcium carbonate	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Curing agent	Dibutyltin dilaurate	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.0	0.1	-	-
	Duranate TPA90EK	40	60	40	40	10	40	40
	Base viscosity (KU value)	108	108	115	110	108	106	120
	NCO/OH equivalent ratio	2.5	3.7	2.5	2.5	0.7	2.5	2.5
Storage stability (40°C x 6 months)		○	○	◎	○	○	○	×

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Application of Coating

Examples 5 to 8 and Comparative Examples 4 to 6

A mild steel plate of 300 x 100 x 0.8 mm was sanded with a dry-sanding P240 paper, and each coating composition for undercoat was thickened so that the solid matter at coating becomes 70% as a putty and also primer surfacer or filler, and sprayed thereon so that the dry film thickness becomes about 200 µm. After drying at 20°C for 60 minutes, the coated film was water-sanded with a P600 paper. Thereon

was sprayed "PG2K metallic base No 123" (manufactured by Kansai Paint Co. Ltd., a urethane curable base coat coating) so that the dry film thickness becomes about 15 μm . After 10 minutes of setting, the coated plate was dried at 60°C for 10 minutes. Then, "PG2K M clear" (manufactured by Kansai Paint Co. Ltd., a urethane curable clear coating) was sprayed so that the dry film thickness becomes 40 to 50 μm and the coated plate was artificially dried at 60°C for 20 minutes to obtain each test coated plate.

Examples 9 to 12 and Comparative Examples 7 to 9

To a mild steel plate of 300 x 100 x 0.8 mm was applied "LUC polypyutty" (manufactured by Kansai Paint Co. Ltd., an unsaturated polyester putty) so that the thickness becomes about 2 mm by means of a knife. After drying at room temperature for 60 minutes, the coated surface was sanded with a P120 dry-sanding paper so as to smoothen the surface. Each coating composition for undercoat was thickened so that solid matter at coating becomes 50% as a primer surfacer or filler and sprayed thereon so that the dry film thickness becomes about 60 μm . After drying at 20°C for 60 minutes, the coated plate was water-sanded with a P600 paper. The plate was further coated with "Acrylic 2101 metallic base" (a cellulose acetate butyrate-modified acrylic lacquer, aerosol-type, manufactured by Kansai Paint Co. Ltd.) so that the dry

film thickness becomes about 20 μm . After 10 minutes of setting at room temperature, the coated plate was coated with "PG2K one-pack clear" (a urethane curable clear, aerosol-type, manufactured by Kansai Paint Co. Ltd.) so that the dry film thickness becomes about 40 μm and then dried to obtain each test coated plate.

Performance Test

The resulting each test coated plate was subjected to the following performance tests. The results are shown in Tables 2 and 3.

Table 2

	Example				Comparative Example		
	5	6	7	8	4	5	6
Kind of Coating composition for undercoat	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4	Comp. Ex. 1	Comp. Ex. 2	Comp. Ex. 3
Sanding ability	○	○	○	○	○	×	×
Suitability for topcoat	○	○	○	○	△	×	×

Table 3

	Example				Comparative Example		
	9	10	11	12	7	8	9
Kind of Coating composition for undercoat	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4	Comp. Ex. 1	Comp. Ex. 2	Comp. Ex. 3
Sanding ability	○	○	○	○	○	×	×
Substrate shielding ability	○	○	○	○	△	×	×
Suitability for topcoat	○	○	○	○	△	×	×

(*1) Sanding ability: a feeling at sanding was evaluated at

15 the time when the primer surfacer or filler surface was

ground with a P600 paper at the preparation of each test coated plate (○: good, △: slightly entangled, ×: considerably entangled).

(*2) Substrate shielding ability: the disappearance of the 5 scratch caused by abrasive paper at sanding the putty on the test coated plate of Examples 9 to 12 and Comparative Examples 7 to 9 was evaluated by observing the state of the coated surface of topcoat (○: no influence of the paper scratch is observed, △: slight influence of the paper 10 scratch is observed, ×: the paper scratch does not disappear and the finish property is deteriorated).

(*3) Suitability for topcoat: the luster of the coated surface for topcoat of each test coated plate was observed (○: good, △: the luster slightly is deteriorated, ×: the 15 luster is considerably deteriorated and penetrated prints is observed).

According to the present invention, the employment of an isocyanate-rich two-pack type coating wherein a specific acrylic polyol, pigment and resin fine particles are 20 used, effects a high content of solid matter at spray coating which allows the formation of a thick film, and enables the formation of a coated film curable within a short period of time after coating and excellent in substrate-shielding ability and solvent resistance, whereby the sanding time and

the time until giving topcoat can be shortened and a puttying step can be simplified in the case of a petty scratch.

Moreover, the composition of the present invention is excellent in storage stability even at a high concentration of pigment and under a high temperature environment, and does not result in problems such as the precipitation and agglomeration of the pigment. The composition of the present invention is an extremely useful coating composition particularly as a primer surfacer or filler composition in the field of the coatings for automobile-repairing, furthermore a composition for puttying capable of spraying.

The disclosure of Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-296618 filed September 28, 2000, including specification, drawings and claims is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Although only some exemplary embodiments of this invention have been described in detail above, those skilled in the art will readily appreciated that many modifications are possible in the exemplary embodiments without materially departing from the novel teachings and advantages of this invention. Accordingly, all such modifications are intended to be included within the scope of this invention.